



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 570

January Session, 2025

Substitute Senate Bill No. 3

Senate, April 8, 2025

The Committee on General Law reported through SEN. MARONEY of the 14th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PROTECTION AND SAFETY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) For the purposes of this
2 section:

3 (1) "Business" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-158ff
4 of the general statutes; and

5 (2) "Person" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-79 of the
6 general statutes.

7 (b) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, no
8 business that offers to sell, lease or otherwise provide any good or
9 service shall:

10 (A) Advertise, display or otherwise offer such good or service to any
11 person at a price that excludes any fee, charge or cost that such person
12 is required to pay in order to purchase, lease or otherwise receive such
13 good or service; or

14 (B) Require any person to pay any fee, charge or cost to purchase,
15 lease or otherwise receive such good or service if such fee, charge or cost
16 (i) is not advertised, displayed or otherwise offered in compliance with
17 the provisions of subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, or (ii) is
18 intentionally obscured, unclear or misrepresented by such business.

19 (2) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not be
20 construed to:

21 (A) Prohibit a business from omitting any applicable federal, state or
22 local tax, or any mandatory fee imposed by any government,
23 governmental subdivision, agency or instrumentality or quasi-
24 governmental instrumentality, from any advertised, displayed or
25 otherwise offered price for a good or service if such tax or fee is
26 disclosed to the person before such person purchases, leases or
27 otherwise receives the good or service;

28 (B) Prohibit a business from imposing any mandatory gratuity, or
29 omitting any mandatory gratuity from any advertised or displayed
30 price for a good or service, if the existence of such mandatory gratuity
31 and the manner in which such mandatory gratuity is calculated are
32 clearly and conspicuously disclosed to the person before the person
33 selects the good or service for purchase, leasing or receipt;

34 (C) Prohibit a business from imposing any fee, charge or cost for a
35 good or service, or omitting the amount of any fee, charge or cost from
36 any advertised or displayed price for a good or service, if (i) the amount
37 of such fee, charge or cost is (I) dependent on the person's selections or
38 cannot feasibly be calculated in full when the price for such good or
39 service is first advertised or displayed, including, but not limited to, any
40 fee, charge or cost imposed for shipping or delivery or that varies
41 according to such person's location or the quantity or number of goods
42 purchased, leased or otherwise received by such person, or (II) charged
43 to the person for the purpose of confirming such person's identity or
44 payment information, in an amount that does not exceed one dollar and
45 is promptly refunded to the person, (ii) the existence of such fee, charge
46 or cost is disclosed when the good or service is advertised or displayed

47 to the person, and (iii) the amount of such fee, charge or cost is disclosed
48 to the person before such person purchases, leases or otherwise receives
49 such good or service;

50 (D) Apply to any transaction that is subject to the provisions of
51 chapter 704 of the general statutes;

52 (E) Apply to any transaction, action or act that qualifies for an
53 exception set forth in section 42-110c of the general statutes;

54 (F) Apply to, or permit, any surcharge prohibited under section 42-
55 133ff of the general statutes; or

56 (G) Apply to any transaction unless such transaction involves (i) a
57 person residing in this state, or (ii) the offer, sale, rental, lease or
58 distribution of any good or service in this state.

59 (c) Any violation of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section
60 shall be deemed an unfair or deceptive trade practice under subsection
61 (a) of section 42-110b of the general statutes.

62 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) For the purposes of this
63 section:

64 (1) "Connected device" means an Internet-connected device,
65 including, but not limited to, a cellular telephone, computer, home
66 appliance, motor vehicle, tablet, television, toy or video game console,
67 that includes a camera or microphone;

68 (2) "Connected device manufacturer" means a person doing business
69 in this state who manufactures a connected device;

70 (3) "Initial consumer" means an individual who is (A) a resident of
71 this state, and (B) with respect to any connected device, the first
72 individual to lease, purchase or assume ownership of such connected
73 device;

74 (4) "Person" means an individual, association, corporation, limited
75 liability company, partnership, trust or other legal entity;

76 (5) "Personally identifying information" has the same meaning as
77 provided in section 42-284 of the general statutes;

78 (6) "Provider" means (A) a connected device manufacturer, and (B)
79 any person who (i) enters into a contract with a connected device
80 manufacturer, and (ii) receives access to (I) any camera or microphone
81 included in a connected device manufactured by the connected device
82 manufacturer, (II) any image or video collected, recorded, stored,
83 analyzed, interpreted or transmitted by way of any camera included in
84 any connected device manufactured by the connected device
85 manufacturer, or (III) any spoken word or other sound collected,
86 recorded, stored, analyzed, interpreted or transmitted by way of any
87 microphone included in any connected device manufactured by the
88 connected device manufacturer; and

89 (7) "Toy" means a product that a manufacturer designs, or intends to
90 be used, for amusement or play.

91 (b) No provider shall allow any person to activate any connected
92 device unless the provider:

93 (1) Prominently displays to the initial consumer or any person whom
94 the initial consumer designates to first install or set up the connected
95 device, at the time that such initial consumer or person first installs or
96 sets up such connected device:

97 (A) A disclaimer in the following form:

98 "This device transmits audio and/or video back to the manufacturer
99 and/or a third party and which may be recorded."; and

100 (B) A statement disclosing (i) that such connected device includes a
101 camera or microphone, (ii) that the camera or microphone included in
102 such connected device will be enabled or turned on, (iii) that such
103 connected device might record such initial consumer, (iv) that the
104 connected device manufacturer of such connected device or another
105 provider might retain recordings of such initial consumer, (v) which
106 command or action will activate or enable operation of the camera or

107 microphone included in such connected device, (vi) the categories of
108 images, videos or sounds that (I) the camera or microphone included in
109 such connected device will look for, listen for or record, or (II) might be
110 disclosed to any person other than such initial consumer, (vii) the
111 categories of persons described in subparagraph (B)(vi)(II) of this
112 subdivision, and (viii) that such initial consumer shall not be
113 discriminated against if such initial consumer or person declines to
114 activate a camera or microphone included in the connected device
115 unless (I) such connected device is provided to such initial consumer as
116 a condition of employment, or (II) declining to activate such camera or
117 microphone would render such connected device useless; and

118 (2) Provides to the initial consumer or any person whom the initial
119 consumer designates to first install or set up the connected device, at the
120 time that such initial consumer or person first installs or sets up such
121 connected device, the ability to decline to activate a camera or
122 microphone included in the connected device.

123 (c) Each provider shall implement and maintain reasonable security
124 measures to protect any personally identifying information collected
125 through a camera or microphone included in a connected device from
126 any unauthorized access, acquisition, destruction, disclosure,
127 modification or use thereof.

128 (d) No provider shall use or sell any recording collected through
129 operation of a camera or microphone included in a connected device for
130 the purposes of targeted advertising, as defined in section 42-515 of the
131 general statutes.

132 (e) No person shall compel any provider to build specific features for
133 the purpose of allowing a law enforcement agency or officer to monitor
134 communications through a camera or microphone included in a
135 connected device.

136 (f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to:

137 (1) Impose any liability on a provider for any functionality provided

138 by an application that an initial consumer (A) downloads and installs,
139 or (B) chooses to use on a network of remote servers hosted on the
140 Internet to store, manage and process data;

141 (2) Authorize disclosure of any recording retained by a provider to
142 another person, including, but not limited to, a law enforcement agency
143 or officer, unless such disclosure is authorized by other applicable law
144 or pursuant to an order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction; or

145 (3) Modify, limit or supersede the operation of any other provision of
146 the general statutes concerning privacy or security.

147 (g) Any violation of subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of this section
148 shall be deemed an unfair or deceptive trade practice under subsection
149 (a) of section 42-110b of the general statutes.

150 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) For the purposes of this
151 section, unless the context otherwise requires:

152 (1) "Antenna" includes, but is not limited to, any resonant device that
153 is designed especially for the purpose of capturing electromagnetic
154 energy transmitted by direct satellite or commercial radio or television
155 broadcasting facilities;

156 (2) "Authorized repair provider" (A) means a person who (i) is
157 unaffiliated with a manufacturer, and (ii) has an arrangement with a
158 manufacturer (I) under which the manufacturer grants to the person a
159 license to use a trade name, service mark or other proprietary identifier
160 to offer diagnostic, maintenance or repair services for electronic or
161 appliance products under the manufacturer's name, or (II) to offer
162 diagnostic, maintenance or repair services for electronic or appliance
163 products on behalf of the manufacturer, and (B) includes a
164 manufacturer, with respect to any of such manufacturer's electronic or
165 appliance products, if the manufacturer (i) offers diagnostic,
166 maintenance or repair services for such product, and (ii) does not have
167 an arrangement with an unaffiliated person to diagnose, maintain or
168 repair such product;

169 (3) "Documentation" means any electronic or appliance product
170 diagram, manual, reporting output, schematic, service code description
171 or similar information that a manufacturer provides to an authorized
172 repair provider or, if the manufacturer does not have an authorized
173 repair provider, the manufacturer uses for the purpose of diagnosing,
174 maintaining or repairing an electronic or appliance product;

175 (4) "Electronic or appliance product" or "product" (A) means any
176 antenna, electronic set, major home appliance or rotator (i) that is
177 manufactured for the first time, and first sold or used in this state, on or
178 after July 1, 2026, and (ii) for which the manufacturer makes
179 documentation, parts and tools available to an authorized repair
180 provider, (B) includes, but is not limited to, any item set forth in
181 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision that is sold through any method
182 other than a direct retail sale, and (C) does not include any (i) alarm
183 system, as defined in section 29-6c of the general statutes, (ii) motor
184 vehicle, as defined in section 13b-387 of the general statutes, or any
185 component used to maintain, manufacture or repair any motor vehicle,
186 or (iii) video game console;

187 (5) "Electronic set" includes, but is not limited to, any audio or video
188 recorder or playback equipment, computer system, facsimile machine,
189 photocopier, radio, television, video camera or video monitor that is
190 normally used or sold for personal, family, household or home office
191 use;

192 (6) "Fair and reasonable terms" means terms that satisfy the
193 requirements established in subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this
194 section;

195 (7) "Manufacturer" means the person who manufactures an electronic
196 or appliance product;

197 (8) "Major home appliance" includes, but is not limited to, any
198 dishwasher, dryer, freezer, microwave oven, range, refrigerator, room
199 air conditioner, trash compactor or washer that is normally used or sold
200 for personal, family, household or home office use;

201 (9) "Part" means any replacement component or assembly of
202 components, either new or used, that the manufacturer of an electronic
203 or appliance product makes available to an authorized repair provider
204 to facilitate the maintenance or repair of such product;

205 (10) "Person" means an individual, association, corporation, limited
206 liability company, partnership, trust or other legal entity;

207 (11) "Rotator" includes, but is not limited to, an electromechanical
208 device, used in connection with an antenna installation or repair, that is
209 operated from a remote location to rotate an antenna on a horizontal
210 plane;

211 (12) "Service dealer" means any person who (A) is not an authorized
212 repair provider or manufacturer, and (B) for compensation, engages in
213 the business of, or holds such person out to the public as engaging in
214 the business of, installing, maintaining, repairing or servicing any
215 electronic or appliance product;

216 (13) "Tool" (A) means any hardware implement, software program or
217 other apparatus that the manufacturer of an electronic or appliance
218 product makes available to an authorized repair provider for the
219 diagnosis, maintenance or repair of such product, and (B) includes, but
220 is not limited to, (i) any software or other mechanism that provisions,
221 programs, pairs a part, provides or calibrates functionality or performs
222 any other function necessary to repair an electronic or appliance
223 product, or a part thereof, and return such product or part to its fully
224 functional condition, and (ii) any update to any software or mechanism
225 described in subparagraph (B)(i) of this subdivision;

226 (14) "Trade secret" has the same meaning as provided in section 35-
227 51 of the general statutes; and

228 (15) "Video game console" (A) means any computing device,
229 including, but not limited to, any console machine, handheld console
230 device or similar device or system, that is primarily used by consumers
231 to play video games, (B) includes, but is not limited to, the components

232 and peripherals of any computing device described in subparagraph (A)
233 of this subdivision, and (C) does not include any (i) general or all-
234 purpose computing device, (ii) desktop, laptop or tablet computer, or
235 (iii) hand-held mobile telephone, as defined in section 14-296aa of the
236 general statutes.

237 (b) (1) The manufacturer of an electronic or appliance product shall
238 make available, on fair and reasonable terms, to the owners of such
239 product, service and repair facilities and service dealers documentation
240 and functional parts and tools, inclusive of any updates thereto, that are
241 sufficient to affect the diagnosis, maintenance or repair of such product:

242 (A) For at least three years after the last date on which such
243 manufacturer manufactured an electronic or appliance product of the
244 same model or type if such product has a wholesale price to a retailer,
245 or to any other person in any sale other than a direct retail sale, of at
246 least fifty dollars but less than one hundred dollars, which wholesale
247 price shall not exceed the manufacturer's suggested retail price for such
248 electronic or appliance product; or

249 (B) For at least five years after the last date on which such
250 manufacturer manufactured an electronic or appliance product of the
251 same model or type if such product has a wholesale price to a retailer,
252 or to any person in any sale other than a direct retail sale, of at least one
253 hundred dollars, which wholesale price shall not exceed the
254 manufacturer's suggested retail price for such electronic or appliance
255 product.

256 (2) The time periods set forth in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of
257 subdivision (1) of this subsection shall apply regardless of whether such
258 time periods exceed the term of any warranty period for the electronic
259 or appliance product.

260 (3) (A) For the purposes of subdivision (1) of this subsection and
261 except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, the
262 manufacturer of an electronic or appliance product shall be deemed to
263 have made documentation, functional parts and tools available on fair

264 and reasonable terms if:

265 (i) Such manufacturer makes such documentation, parts and tools
266 available at costs and on terms that are equivalent to the most favorable
267 costs and terms under which such manufacturer offers such
268 documentation, parts and tools to authorized repair providers,
269 accounting for any discount, rebate, convenient and timely means of
270 delivery, means of enabling fully restored and updated functionality,
271 rights of use or other incentive or preference such manufacturer offers
272 to authorized repair providers;

273 (ii) For documentation, such manufacturer makes such
274 documentation, including any relevant updates thereto, available at no
275 charge, except such manufacturer may impose a charge for the
276 reasonable actual costs incurred by such manufacturer in preparing and
277 sending a physical printed version of such documentation to an owner,
278 service and repair facility or service dealer if the owner, service and
279 repair facility or service dealer requests a physical printed version of
280 such documentation; and

281 (iii) For tools, such manufacturer makes such tools available at no
282 charge and without imposing any impediment to access or use such
283 tools to diagnose, maintain or repair and enable full functionality of
284 such product, or in a manner that does not impair the efficient and cost-
285 effective performance of any such diagnosis, maintenance or repair,
286 except such manufacturer may impose a charge for the reasonable
287 actual costs incurred by such manufacturer in preparing and sending
288 such tools to an owner, service and repair facility or service dealer in
289 physical form if the owner, service and repair facility or service dealer
290 requests such tools in physical form.

291 (B) If a manufacturer does not use an authorized repair provider, the
292 manufacturer of an electronic or appliance product shall be deemed to
293 have made documentation, functional parts and tools available on fair
294 and reasonable terms if such manufacturer makes such documentation,
295 parts and tools available at a price that reflects the actual costs incurred
296 by such manufacturer in preparing and delivering such documentation,

297 parts and tools, excluding any research and development costs.

298 (c) If a service dealer or service and repair facility is not an authorized
299 repair provider for an electronic or appliance product, the service dealer
300 or service and repair facility shall, before repairing any such product,
301 provide to the customer who requests such repair a written notice
302 disclosing:

303 (1) That such service dealer or service and repair facility is not an
304 authorized repair provider for such product; and

305 (2) Whether such service dealer or service and repair facility uses any
306 (A) used replacement parts, or (B) replacement parts provided by a
307 supplier other than the manufacturer of such product.

308 (d) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, no
309 manufacturer or authorized repair provider shall be liable for any
310 damage or injury caused to any electronic or appliance product, person
311 or property that occurs as a result of any diagnosis, maintenance,
312 modification or repair performed by an owner or a service dealer,
313 including, but not limited to:

314 (A) Any indirect, incidental, special or consequential damages;

315 (B) Any loss of data, privacy or profits; or

316 (C) Any inability to use, or reduced functionality of, such product.

317 (2) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not apply
318 to any design defect or manufacturing flaw that existed prior to, or
319 independent of, any diagnosis, maintenance, modification or repair
320 described in said subdivision.

321 (e) No provision of this section shall be construed to:

322 (1) Require the manufacturer of an electronic or appliance product to
323 (A) disclose any trade secret, or license any intellectual property,
324 including, but not limited to, any copyright or patent, unless such
325 disclosure or license is necessary for such manufacturer to comply with

326 the provisions of this section, (B) make available any special
327 documentation, tools or parts that would disable or override antitheft
328 security measures set by the owner of any such product without such
329 owner's authorization, or (C) sell any part if such manufacturer no
330 longer (i) provides such part, or (ii) makes such part available to
331 authorized repair providers;

332 (2) Require any manufacturer of an electronic or appliance product
333 that is an authorized repair provider within the meaning of
334 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section to
335 make available any documentation or tools that (A) such manufacturer
336 exclusively uses to perform, at no cost to customers, remote diagnostic
337 services, including, but not limited to, remote diagnostic services
338 performed by way of the Internet, electronic mail or any chat function
339 or telephonic means, that do not require such manufacturer to
340 physically handle a customer's electronic or appliance product, unless
341 such manufacturer also makes such documentation or tools available to
342 any person who is unaffiliated with such manufacturer, or (B) are
343 exclusively used by machines that simultaneously repair several
344 electronic or appliance products, provided such manufacturer makes
345 available to the owners of such product, service and repair facilities and
346 service dealers sufficient alternative documentation and tools to
347 diagnose, maintain or repair such product;

348 (3) Require distribution of the source code for an electronic or
349 appliance product; or

350 (4) Apply to (A) the manufacturer of an electronic or appliance
351 product if such manufacturer provides to a customer, at no charge to the
352 customer, a replacement electronic or appliance product that is readily
353 available and equivalent to, or better than, the replaced electronic or
354 appliance product, (B) any dealer, distributor, importer or manufacturer
355 of any equipment designed and manufactured exclusively for off-road
356 or nonroad use, including, but not limited to, any (i) all-terrain sports
357 vehicle, (ii) construction or compact construction equipment, (iii)
358 electric vehicle charging infrastructure equipment, (iv) farm or utility

359 tractor, (v) farm implement, (vi) farm machinery, (vii) forestry
360 equipment, (viii) fuel cell, (ix) garden, turf or yard equipment, (x)
361 generator set, (xi) industrial equipment, (xii) integrated, stand-alone,
362 mobile or stationary internal combustion engine, (xiii) marine vehicle,
363 (xiv) mining equipment, (xv) outdoor power equipment, (xvi) portable
364 generator, (xvii) power tool, (xviii) racing vehicle, (xix) recreational
365 vehicle, as defined in section 14-1 of the general statutes, (xx) road
366 building equipment, or (xxi) utility equipment, or (C) any accessory,
367 attachment, component, repair part, technology or tool for any
368 equipment described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision.

369 (f) A violation of subsections (b) to (e), inclusive, of this section shall
370 be deemed an unfair trade practice under subsection (a) of section 42-
371 110b of the general statutes and shall be enforced solely by the Attorney
372 General. The provisions of section 42-110g of the general statutes shall
373 not apply to any such violation.

374 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions
375 of any municipal charter, special act or home rule ordinance, not later
376 than July 1, 2027, each municipality shall (1) register a ".gov" Internet
377 top-level domain for such municipality with the Cybersecurity and
378 Infrastructure Security Agency within the United States Department of
379 Homeland Security, and (2) redirect any existing Internet web site
380 addresses maintained by such municipality to such domain or
381 discontinue the use of such addresses. On and after July 1, 2027, each
382 municipality shall maintain an Internet web site with a ".gov" Internet
383 top-level domain. For the purposes of this section, "municipality" has
384 the same meaning as provided in section 7-479a of the general statutes.

385 Sec. 5. Section 42-230 of the general statutes is repealed and the
386 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

387 (a) As used in this section:

388 (1) "Abnormal economic disruption" means a significant disruption
389 in the production, supply, distribution, wholesale, sale or availability of
390 a consumer necessity that (A) is caused by a natural or man-made

391 disaster or emergency, regardless of the location of such disaster or
392 emergency, and (B) causes ordinary competitive market forces to cease
393 functioning normally;

394 (2) "Consumer necessity" (A) means an item purchased by or on
395 behalf of a state agency, as defined in section 1-79, for the purpose of
396 ensuring the public health or safety of the residents of this state, (B)
397 includes, but is not limited to, food, diapers, baby formula,
398 pharmaceutical products and prescription drugs, and (C) does not
399 include any item that is subject to a continuous maximum price
400 requirement established in any applicable federal or state law or
401 regulation;

402 (3) "Precipitating event" means (A) a civil preparedness emergency
403 declaration issued by the Governor pursuant to chapter 517, (B) a
404 transportation emergency declaration issued by the Governor pursuant
405 to section 3-6b, (C) an abnormal economic disruption notice issued by
406 the Attorney General pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, or (D) a
407 major disaster or emergency declaration issued by the President of the
408 United States;

409 (4) "Unconscionably excessive price" means an increased price at
410 which a vendor leases, rents or sells an item during a precipitating event
411 if (A) the increased price is grossly disproportionate to the price at
412 which the vendor leased, rented or sold such item (i) immediately before
413 the precipitating event, or (ii) while the precipitating event was
414 reasonably anticipated, and (B) the increased price is not attributable to
415 additional costs incurred by the vendor in leasing, renting or selling the
416 item during the precipitating event; and

417 (5) "Vendor" means a person, corporation or firm, including, but not
418 limited to, a distributor, manufacturer, retailer, supplier or wholesaler.

419 (b) (1) If the Attorney General determines that an abnormal economic
420 disruption exists or is substantially likely to be imminent, the Attorney
421 General may issue a notice for such existing or imminent abnormal
422 economic disruption. The Attorney General shall make such

423 determination (A) following a reasonable investigation and consultation
424 with the Commissioner of Consumer Protection and the Commissioner
425 of Economic and Community Development, and (B) with due
426 consideration for whether issuing such notice will disrupt the supply of
427 consumer necessities.

428 (2) (A) A notice of an existing or imminent abnormal economic
429 disruption issued by the Attorney General pursuant to subdivision (1)
430 of this subsection shall:

431 (i) Specify (I) the date on which the Attorney General issued such
432 notice, (II) the anticipated end date of the period for which the Attorney
433 General issued such notice, (III) the conditions that have caused, or are
434 substantially likely to have caused, such abnormal economic disruption,
435 (IV) the consumer necessity, consumer necessities or categories of
436 consumer necessities affected by such abnormal economic disruption
437 and therefore subject to the provisions of this section, and (V) the levels
438 of trade or commerce affected by such abnormal economic disruption
439 and therefore subject to the provisions of this section, which levels may
440 include, but need not be limited to, production, supply, distribution,
441 wholesale, sale or availability;

442 (ii) Be posted by the Attorney General on the home page of the
443 Internet web site of the office of the Attorney General;

444 (iii) Be filed by the Attorney General (I) with the Secretary of the State,
445 in a form and manner prescribed by the Secretary of the State, and (II)
446 in writing with the joint legislative committee described in
447 subparagraph (B)(i) of this subdivision; and

448 (iv) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision or
449 subdivision (3) of this subsection, expire sixty days after the Attorney
450 General issued such notice or on an earlier date specified by the
451 Attorney General in such notice, whichever occurs first.

452 (B) (i) A notice of an existing or imminent abnormal economic
453 disruption issued by the Attorney General pursuant to subdivision (1)

454 of this subsection may be disapproved by a majority vote of a joint
455 legislative committee consisting of the president pro tempore of the
456 Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives and the majority
457 and minority leaders of both houses of the General Assembly, provided
458 (I) at least one of the minority leaders votes for disapproval, and (II)
459 notice of such disapproval is filed with the Secretary of the State, in a
460 form and manner prescribed by the Secretary of the State, not later than
461 seventy-two hours after the joint legislative committee receives written
462 notice from the Attorney General pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iii)(II)
463 of this subdivision.

464 (ii) Any disapproval under subparagraph (B)(i) of this subdivision
465 shall become effective when notice of such disapproval is filed with the
466 Secretary of the State, in a form and manner prescribed by the Secretary
467 of the State.

468 (3) (A) The Attorney General may, at any time, modify a notice of an
469 existing or imminent abnormal economic disruption issued pursuant to
470 subdivision (1) of this subsection, or extend the term of any such notice
471 for one or more additional sixty-day periods, provided the Attorney
472 General issues a notice that:

473 (i) Specifies (I) the information required under subparagraph (A)(i)
474 of subdivision (2) of this subsection, and (II) the grounds for such
475 modification or extension;

476 (ii) Is posted by the Attorney General on the home page of the
477 Internet web site of the office of the Attorney General; and

478 (iii) Is filed by the Attorney General (I) with the Secretary of the State,
479 in a form and manner prescribed by the Secretary of the State, and (II)
480 in writing with the joint legislative committee described in
481 subparagraph (B)(i) of subdivision (2) of this subsection.

482 (B) (i) A modification or extension notice issued by the Attorney
483 General pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision may be
484 disapproved by a majority vote of the joint legislative committee

485 described in subparagraph (B)(i) of subdivision (2) of this subsection,
486 provided (I) at least one of the minority leaders votes for disapproval,
487 and (II) notice of such disapproval is filed with the Secretary of the State,
488 in a form and manner prescribed by the Secretary of the State, not later
489 than seventy-two hours after the joint legislative committee receives
490 written notice from the Attorney General pursuant to subparagraph
491 (A)(iii)(II) of this subdivision.

492 (ii) Any disapproval under subparagraph (B)(i) of this subdivision
493 shall become effective when notice of such disapproval is filed with the
494 Secretary of the State, in a form and manner prescribed by the Secretary
495 of the State.

496 (c) No [person, firm or corporation shall increase the price of any item
497 which such person, firm or corporation sells or offers for sale at retail]
498 vendor shall lease, rent or sell, or offer to lease, rent or sell, any item in
499 the chain of distribution at an unconscionably excessive price at any
500 location in an area which is the subject of any [disaster emergency
501 declaration issued by the Governor pursuant to chapter 517, any
502 transportation emergency declaration issued by the Governor pursuant
503 to section 3-6b or any major disaster or emergency declaration issued by
504 the President of the United States, until the period of emergency or
505 disaster is declared by the Governor or the President] precipitating
506 event until the Governor, the Attorney General or the President, as
507 applicable, declares such precipitating event to be at an end. [Nothing
508 in this section shall prohibit the fluctuation in the price of items sold at
509 retail which occurs during the normal course of business. Any person,
510 firm or corporation which violates any provision of this section shall be
511 fined not more than ninety-nine dollars.]

512 (d) Any violation of the provisions of this section shall be deemed an
513 unfair or deceptive trade practice under subsection (a) of section 42-
514 110b. The Attorney General shall have (1) exclusive authority to enforce
515 the provisions of this section on behalf of the state, and (2) for the
516 purposes of this section, the authority to (A) order an investigation or
517 examination pursuant to section 42-110d, or (B) take such other

518 enforcement action under sections 42-110e to 42-110q, inclusive, as the
519 Attorney General deems necessary.

520 Sec. 6. Subsection (b) of section 51-164n of the general statutes is
521 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
522 *2025*):

523 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any person
524 who is alleged to have committed (1) a violation under the provisions of
525 section 1-9, 1-10, 1-11, 2-71h, 4b-13, 7-13, 7-14, 7-35 or 7-41, subsection (c)
526 of section 7-66, section 7-83, 7-147h, 7-148, 7-283, 7-325, 7-393, 8-12, 8-25,
527 8-27, 9-63, 9-322, 9-350, 10-185, 10-193, 10-197, 10-198, 10-230, 10-251, 10-
528 254, 10a-35, 12-52, 12-54, 12-129b or 12-170aa, subdivision (3) of
529 subsection (e) of section 12-286, section 12-286a, 12-292, 12-314b or 12-
530 326g, subdivision (4) of section 12-408, subdivision (3), (5) or (6) of
531 section 12-411, section 12-435c, 12-476a, 12-476b, 12-476c, 12-487, 13a-
532 26b, 13a-71, 13a-107, 13a-113, 13a-114, 13a-115, 13a-117b, 13a-123, 13a-
533 124, 13a-139, 13a-140, 13a-143b, 13a-253, 13a-263 or 13b-39f, subsection
534 (f) of section 13b-42, section 13b-90 or 13b-100, subsection (a) of section
535 13b-108, section 13b-221 or 13b-292, subsection (a) or (b) of section 13b-
536 324, section 13b-336, 13b-337, 13b-338, 13b-410a, 13b-410b or 13b-410c,
537 subsection (a), (b) or (c) of section 13b-412, section 13b-414 or 14-4,
538 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-12, subsection (d) of
539 section 14-12, subsection (f) of section 14-12a, subsection (a) of section
540 14-15a, section 14-16c, 14-20a or 14-27a, subsection (f) of section 14-34a,
541 subsection (d) of section 14-35, section 14-43, 14-44j, 14-49, 14-50a, 14-58
542 or 14-62a, subsection (b) of section 14-66, section 14-66a or 14-67a,
543 subsection (g) of section 14-80, subsection (f) or (i) of section 14-80h,
544 section 14-97a or 14-98, subsection (a), (b) or (d) of section 14-100a,
545 section 14-100b, 14-103a, 14-106a, 14-106c, 14-145a, 14-146, 14-152, 14-
546 153, 14-161 or 14-163b, subsection (f) of section 14-164i, section 14-213b
547 or 14-219, subdivision (1) of section 14-223a, subsection (d) of section 14-
548 224, section 14-240, 14-250, 14-253a, 14-261a, 14-262, 14-264, 14-266, 14-
549 267a, 14-269, 14-270, 14-272b, 14-274, 14-275 or 14-275a, subsection (c) of
550 section 14-275c, section 14-276, subsection (a) or (b) of section 14-277,
551 section 14-278, 14-279 or 14-280, subsection (b), (e) or (h) of section 14-

552 283, section 14-283d, 14-283e, 14-283f, 14-283g, 14-291, 14-293b, 14-296aa,
553 14-298a, 14-300, 14-300d, 14-300f, 14-319, 14-320, 14-321, 14-325a, 14-326,
554 14-330 or 14-332a, subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of section 14-386a, section
555 15-15e, 15-25 or 15-33, subdivision (1) of section 15-97, subsection (a) of
556 section 15-115, section 16-15, 16-16, 16-44, 16-256e, 16-278 or 16a-15,
557 subsection (a) of section 16a-21, section 16a-22, subsection (a) or (b) of
558 section 16a-22h, section 16a-106, 17a-24, 17a-145, 17a-149 or 17a-152,
559 subsection (b) of section 17a-227, section 17a-465, subsection (c) of
560 section 17a-488, section 17b-124, 17b-131, 17b-137, 19a-33, 19a-39 or 19a-
561 87, subsection (b) of section 19a-87a, section 19a-91, 19a-102a, 19a-102b,
562 19a-105, 19a-107, 19a-113, 19a-215, 19a-216a, 19a-219, 19a-222, 19a-224,
563 19a-286, 19a-287, 19a-297, 19a-301, 19a-309, 19a-335, 19a-336, 19a-338,
564 19a-339, 19a-340, 19a-425, 19a-442, 19a-502, 19a-565, 20-7a, 20-14, 20-
565 153a, 20-158, 20-231, 20-233, 20-249, 20-257, 20-265, 20-324e, 20-329c or
566 20-329g, subsection (b) of section 20-334, section 20-341l, 20-366, 20-482,
567 20-597, 20-608, 20-610, 20-623, 21-1, 21-38, 21-39, 21-43, 21-47, 21-48 or
568 21-63, subsection (d) of section 21-71, section 21-76a or 21-100,
569 subsection (c) of section 21a-2, subdivision (1) of section 21a-19, section
570 21a-20 or 21a-21, subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 21a-25,
571 section 21a-26, subsection (a) of section 21a-37, section 21a-46, 21a-61,
572 21a-63, 21a-70b or 21a-77, subsection (b) or (c) of section 21a-79, section
573 21a-85 or 21a-154, subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 21a-159,
574 section 21a-278b, subsection (c), (d) or (e) of section 21a-279a, section
575 21a-415a, 21a-421eee, 21a-421fff or 21a-421hhh, subsection (a) of section
576 21a-430, section 22-12b, 22-13, 22-14, 22-15, 22-16, 22-26g, 22-30, 22-34,
577 22-35, 22-36, 22-38, 22-39, 22-39f, 22-49, 22-54, 22-61j or 22-61l,
578 subdivision (1) of subsection (n) of section 22-61l, subsection (f) of
579 section 22-61m, subdivision (1) of subsection (f) of section 22-61m,
580 section 22-84, 22-89, 22-90, 22-96, 22-98, 22-99, 22-100 or 22-111o,
581 subsection (d) of section 22-118l, section 22-167, subsection (c) of section
582 22-277, section 22-278, 22-279, 22-280a, 22-318a, 22-320h, 22-324a or 22-
583 326, subsection (b), subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (e) or subsection
584 (g) of section 22-344, subsection (a) or (b) of section 22-344b, subsection
585 (d) of section 22-344d, section 22-344f, 22-350a, 22-354, 22-359, 22-366,
586 22-391, 22-413, 22-414, 22-415, 22-415c, 22a-66a or 22a-246, subsection (a)

587 of section 22a-250, section 22a-256g, subsection (e) of section 22a-256h,
588 section 22a-363 or 22a-381d, subsections (c) and (d) of section 22a-381e,
589 section 22a-449, 22a-450, 22a-461, 23-4b, 23-38, 23-45, 23-46 or 23-61b,
590 subsection (a) or subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 23-65, section
591 25-37 or 25-40, subsection (a) of section 25-43, section 25-43d, 25-135, 26-
592 18, 26-19, 26-21, 26-31, 26-40, 26-40a, 26-42, 26-43, 26-49, 26-54, 26-55, 26-
593 56, 26-58 or 26-59, subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 26-61,
594 section 26-64, subdivision (1) of section 26-76, section 26-79, 26-87, 26-89,
595 26-91, 26-94, 26-97, 26-98, 26-104, 26-105, 26-107, 26-114a, 26-117,
596 subsection (b) of section 26-127, 26-128, 26-128a, 26-131, 26-132, 26-138,
597 26-139 or 26-141, subdivision (1) of section 26-186, section 26-207, 26-215,
598 26-217 or 26-224a, subdivision (1) of section 26-226, section 26-227, 26-
599 230, 26-231, 26-232, 26-244, 26-257a, 26-260, 26-276, 26-280, 26-284, 26-
600 285, 26-286, 26-287, 26-288, 26-290, 26-291a, 26-292, 26-294, 27-107, 28-13,
601 29-6a, 29-16, 29-17, 29-25, 29-143o, 29-143z or 29-156a, subsection (b), (d),
602 (e), (g) or (h) of section 29-161q, section 29-161y or 29-161z, subdivision
603 (1) of section 29-198, section 29-210, 29-243 or 29-277, subsection (c) of
604 section 29-291c, section 29-316 or 29-318, subsection (b) of section 29-
605 335a, section 29-381, 30-19f, 30-48a or 30-86a, subsection (b) of section
606 30-89, subsection (c) or (d) of section 30-117, section 31-3, 31-10, 31-11,
607 31-12, 31-13, 31-14, 31-15, 31-16, 31-18, 31-23, 31-24, 31-25, 31-32, 31-36,
608 31-47 or 31-48, subsection (b) of section 31-48b, section 31-51, 31-51g, 31-
609 52, 31-52a, 31-53 or 31-54, subsection (a) or (c) of section 31-69, section
610 31-70, 31-74, 31-75, 31-76, 31-76a, 31-89b or 31-134, subsection (i) of
611 section 31-273, section 31-288, 31-348, 33-624, 33-1017, 34-13d or 34-412,
612 subdivision (1) of section 35-20, subsection (a) of section 36a-57,
613 subsection (b) of section 36a-665, section 36a-699, 36a-739, 36a-787, 38a-
614 2 or 38a-140, subsection (a) or (b) of section 38a-278, section 38a-479qq,
615 38a-479rr, 38a-506, 38a-548, 38a-626, 38a-680, 38a-713, 38a-733, 38a-764,
616 38a-786, 38a-828, 38a-829, 38a-885, 42-133hh, [42-230,] 42-470 or 42-480,
617 subsection (a) or (c) of section 43-16q, section 45a-283, 45a-450, 45a-634
618 or 45a-658, subdivision (13) or (14) of section 46a-54, section 46a-59, 46a-
619 81b, 46b-22, 46b-24, 46b-34, 46b-38d, 47-34a, 47-47 or 47-53, subsection
620 (i) of section 47a-21, subdivision (1) of subsection (k) of section 47a-21,
621 section 49-2a, 49-8a, 49-16, 52-143 or 52-289, subsection (j) of section 52-

622 362, section 53-133, 53-199, 53-212a, 53-249a, 53-252, 53-264, 53-280, 53-
 623 290a, 53-302a, 53-303e, 53-311a, 53-314, 53-321, 53-322, 53-323 or 53-331,
 624 subsection (b) of section 53-343a, section 53-344, subsection (b) or (c) of
 625 section 53-344b, subsection (b) of section 53-345a, section 53-377, 53-422
 626 or 53-450 or subsection (i) of section 54-36a, or (2) a violation under the
 627 provisions of chapter 268, or (3) a violation of any regulation adopted in
 628 accordance with the provisions of section 12-484, 12-487 or 13b-410, or
 629 (4) a violation of any ordinance, regulation or bylaw of any town, city or
 630 borough, except violations of building codes and the health code, for
 631 which the penalty exceeds ninety dollars but does not exceed two
 632 hundred fifty dollars, unless such town, city or borough has established
 633 a payment and hearing procedure for such violation pursuant to section
 634 7-152c, shall follow the procedures set forth in this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 3	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 4	from passage	New section
Sec. 5	July 1, 2025	42-230
Sec. 6	July 1, 2025	51-164n(b)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 2(b)(1)(A), "which" was added before "may be recorded" for clarity; in Section 3(f), "subsections (b) to (e), inclusive, of" was added before "this section" for consistency with standard drafting conventions; and in Section 5(b)(2)(B)(i)(I) and (b)(3)(B)(i)(I), "minority members of the committee" was changed to "minority leaders" for internal consistency.

GL *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Consumer Protection, Dept.	GF - Cost	None	83,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	None	29,620
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Loss	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill makes various changes to consumer protection statutes resulting in the impacts described below.

Sections 1-2 make various requirements regarding total price disclosure and connected device disclosures and make violations an unfair trade practice resulting in a cost to the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). To meet the requirements of the bill DCP will have to hire one special investigator for a salary and other expenses cost of \$83,000 in FY 27² along with an associated fringe benefit cost of \$29,620 in FY 27. The additional employee is needed to review complaints and

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 40.71% of payroll in FY 26.

²Costs begin in FY 27 due to the 7/1/2026 effective date of these sections.

conduct investigations for any violations of these sections.

Sections 3 and 5 make various right to repair and price gouging regulations and make violations an unfair trade practice enforced solely by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) resulting in no fiscal impact to the state. The OAG has the resources and expertise to meet the requirements of the bill.

Section 4 requires municipalities to register a ".gov" internet top-level domain and redirect any existing Internet web site addresses maintained by such municipality to the new ".gov" domain. This results in a potential cost to various municipalities in FY 25 to the extent they do not have the necessary staff to transition to a .gov domain.

Currently, 116 of Connecticut's 169 municipalities do not have a ".gov" top-level domain and would need to register a new domain with such designation. There is no registration cost for entities eligible for the ".gov" designation. There is no fiscal impact to municipalities that already use a .gov domain or have the staff necessary to complete the transition to the new domain.

For towns without the resources to complete the transition, there is a federal grant program administered by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency within the United States Department of Homeland Security that assists with the transition process.³

Section 6 removes a \$99 fine for price gouging violations resulting in a potential minimal revenue loss to the state to the extent violations occur.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, employee wage increases, and the number of violations.

³<https://www.cisa.gov/state-and-local-cybersecurity-grant-program>

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 3*****AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PROTECTION AND SAFETY.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes various unrelated changes to consumer protection. Specifically, it:

1. generally prohibits businesses that offer to sell, lease, or provide any goods or services to any individual or entity from advertising, displaying, or offering them for a price that does not include all fees, charges, and costs, excluding applicable taxes;
2. requires (a) providers (e.g., cellular phone manufacturers) to prominently display and disclose certain information about the device's camera or microphone before activating the device and (b) anyone who records and transmits any personally identifying information collected through a device's camera or microphone to use reasonable security measures;
3. requires certain electronic or appliance manufacturers to make available, on fair and reasonable terms, products' repair manuals, functional parts, and tools (i.e. right-to-repair);
4. requires all municipalities, by July 1, 2027, to maintain a ".gov" Internet domain and redirect other domains they use to that website or stop using them; and
5. expands the price gouging prohibition in several ways, including by applying the prohibition to an item's entire chain of distribution rather than just at retail and adding a new precipitating event when the prohibition applies (i.e. the attorney general issuing an abnormal economic disruption notice).

6. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the municipal website provision is effective upon passage and the price gouging provisions are effective July 1, 2025.

§ 1 — TOTAL PRICE DISCLOSURE

Total Price Disclosure Required

The bill prohibits businesses that offer to sell, lease, or provide any goods or services to any persons (e.g., individuals and entities) from advertising, displaying, or offering them for a price that does not include all fees, charges, and costs, excluding applicable taxes. It also prohibits businesses from requiring the persons to pay a fee, charge, or cost that is (1) not advertised, displayed, or offered to them as required by the bill, or (2) intentionally obscured, unclear, or misrepresented by the business.

Exceptions

However, the bill does not prohibit a business from omitting any applicable federal, state, or local tax, or mandatory fee imposed by governmental or quasi-governmental entities, from the advertised, displayed, or offered price for a good or service if it is disclosed to the person before they purchase, lease, or receive the good or service.

The bill also does not prohibit a business from imposing a mandatory gratuity or omitting it from any advertised or displayed price for a good or service, as long as it and the way it is calculated are clearly and conspicuously disclosed to the person before the person selects the good or service for purchase, leasing, or receipt.

Additionally, the bill does not prohibit businesses from imposing or omitting fees, charges, or other costs on the advertised or displayed price of goods or services if the additional cost:

1. depends on a person's selection;
2. cannot feasibly be calculated in full when the price is first advertised or displayed, including costs for shipping or delivery or that vary according to a person's location or the quantity or

-
- number of goods purchased, leased, or received;
3. is a charge of up to \$1 to confirm identity or payment information, if the charge is promptly refunded;
 4. is disclosed when the good or service is advertised or displayed to the person; or
 5. is disclosed to the person before they purchase the good or service.

Lastly, these provisions do not apply to the following:

1. any transaction that is subject to the Connecticut Unfair Insurance Practices Act;
2. transactions or actions permitted under law as administered by a regulatory board or officer acting under statutory authority;
3. prohibited surcharges based on a specific payment method; and
4. any transaction unless it involves a person in Connecticut or the offer, sale, rent, lease, or distribution of a good or service in Connecticut.

Penalty

Under the bill, a violation of the total price disclosure requirement is an unfair or deceptive trade practice under the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA, see BACKGROUND).

§ 2 — CONNECTED DEVICE'S DISCLOSURES, STATEMENT, AND PROHIBITIONS

The bill establishes requirements for certain entities that provide, or collect information from, an Internet-connected device's camera or microphone (e.g., that of a cellular telephone, computer, home appliance, motor vehicle, tablet, television, toy, or video game console). It specifies information they must disclose to consumers and measures they must take to protect personally identifiable information. It also prohibits, among other things, requiring providers to build features that

allow law enforcement to monitor communications through the camera or microphone.

The bill makes certain violations of its requirements or prohibitions CUTPA violations.

Required Disclaimer and Statement

The bill requires providers to prominently display a (1) disclaimer when the initial consumer or someone on their behalf first sets up the device and (2) statement with certain disclosures. It also requires providers to give the initial consumer or the designated person, when first installing or setting up the connected device, the ability to decline to activate the camera or microphone.

A “provider” is (1) a manufacturer of Internet-connected devices or (2) any person who contracts with a manufacturer and receives access to certain items in any Internet-connected device the manufacturer manufactures. Specifically, these items are any camera or microphone or image, video, spoken word, or other sound collected, recorded, stored, analyzed, interpreted, or transmitted by the camera or microphone.

The disclaimer must state the following: “This device transmits audio and/or video back to the manufacturer and/or a third party and may be recorded.”

The statement must disclose the following:

1. that the device includes a camera or microphone that will be enabled or turned on and might record the initial consumer;
2. that the device’s manufacturer or another provider might retain the initial consumer’s recordings;
3. which command or action activates or enables the camera or microphone;
4. the categories of images, videos, or sounds that (a) the camera or

-
- microphone will look for, listen for, or record or (b) might be disclosed to any person other than the initial consumer;
5. the categories of individuals and entities to whom disclosures may be allowed; and
 6. that the initial consumer must not be discriminated against if he or she declines to activate a camera or unless (a) the device is provided to the consumer as a condition of employment or (b) declining to activate the camera or microphone would make the device useless.

Personally Identifying Information

The bill requires providers to use and maintain reasonable security measures to protect any personally identifying information collected through an Internet-connected device's camera or microphone from any unauthorized access, acquisition, destruction, disclosure, modification, or use.

Under the bill, "personally identifying information" is an individual's birthday, mother's maiden name, driver's license number, Social Security number, health insurance identification number, financial account number, security code or personal identification number, or government-issued identification number that is not otherwise made directly available to the public.

Existing law similarly requires anyone who possesses another person's personal information to safeguard it from misuse by third parties. Willful violators may be subject to civil penalties of \$500 for each violation, up to \$500,000 for any single event (CGS § 42-471).

Prohibitions and Limitations

The bill prohibits providers from:

1. using or selling any recordings collected through a connected device's camera or microphone for targeted advertising (i.e. displaying specific advertisements to a consumer based on

- personal data obtained or inferred from their activities); and
2. being required to build specific features to allow a law enforcement agency or officer to monitor communications through a connected device's camera or microphone.

The bill also specifies that it does not:

1. impose any liability on a provider for any application functions that an initial consumer (a) downloads and installs or (b) chooses to use on a network of remote servers hosted on the Internet to store, manage, and process data;
2. authorize disclosure of any recording retained by a provider to another person, including a law enforcement agency or officer, unless another law or a court order authorizes it; or
3. modify, limit, or supersede any other privacy or security law.

CUTPA

The bill makes a violation of the provisions on providing a disclosure and statement, implementing and maintaining reasonable security measures, and prohibiting the use or sales of recordings CUTPA violations (see BACKGROUND).

§ 3 — RIGHT-TO-REPAIR

The bill requires electronic or appliance product manufacturers to make available certain resources needed to diagnose, maintain, or repair their products. Under it, manufacturers must make these resources available on fair and reasonable terms (see below) to the product's owners, service and repair facilities, and service dealers (i.e. anyone, other than an authorized repair provider or manufacturer, in the business of installing, maintaining, repairing, or servicing any electronic or appliance product for pay).

The bill's requirements apply to certain electronic or appliance products that are first manufactured, sold, or used in Connecticut on or after July 1, 2026 ("products"). For these products, the manufacturer

must make the following resources available if it makes them available to an “authorized repair provider” (see below):

1. documentation (e.g., product diagrams, manuals, reporting outputs, schematics, service code descriptions, or similar information);
2. functional parts (e.g., new or used replacement components); and
3. tools (e.g., hardware, software, or other apparatus to calibrate or repair a product, including updates).

The bill requires each manufacturer to make these resources available for different lengths of time, depending on the product’s wholesale price to a retailer (or in any sale other than a direct sale). They must provide these resources as follows:

1. for at least three years after the last date it manufactured the product’s model or type if the product’s wholesale price is between \$50 and \$99.99 and
2. for at least five years afterward if the product’s wholesale price is at least \$100.

The bill specifies that (1) the wholesale price described above must not exceed the manufacturer’s suggested retail price for the product and (2) these time periods apply even if they exceed the product’s warranty periods.

Under the bill, an “authorized repair provider” means a person (i.e. individual or entity) who is unaffiliated with a manufacturer and has an arrangement under which the:

1. manufacturer grants the person a license to use a trade name, service mark, or other proprietary identifier to offer diagnostic, maintenance, or repair services for products under the manufacturer’s name or
2. person offers diagnostic, maintenance, or repair services for

products on the manufacturer's behalf.

An authorized repair provider includes a manufacturer for its own electronic or appliance products, if the manufacturer (1) offers diagnostic, maintenance, or repair services for the product and (2) does not have an arrangement with an unaffiliated person to provide these services.

A "product" includes any antenna, electronic set, major home appliance (e.g., dishwasher, microwave, or air conditioner), or rotator that is sold through any method other than a direct retail sale. It does not include any alarm system; motor vehicle or any component used to maintain, manufacture, or repair one; or video game console.

An "electronic set" includes any audio or video recorder or playback equipment, computer system, fax machine, photocopier, radio, television, video camera, or video monitor that is normally used or sold for personal, family, household, or home office use. A "rotator" includes an electromechanical device, used in an antenna installation or repair, that is operated from a remote location to rotate an antenna on a horizontal plane.

Fair and Reasonable Terms

Under the bill, the product manufacturer must make the required resources available on fair and reasonable terms, meaning at costs and on terms that are equal to the most favorable costs and terms it offers to authorized repair providers, accounting for any incentives or preferences (e.g., discounts, rebates, convenient and timely means of delivery, means of enabling fully restored and updated functionality, or rights of use) it offers the provider.

Additionally, the manufacturer must provide for free (1) documentation, including any relevant updates, and (2) tools, without imposing any barriers to accessing or using them in an efficient and cost-effective way. The manufacturer may, however, charge for its reasonable, actual costs to prepare and send physical versions of the tools and documentation, if requested.

If a manufacturer does not use an authorized repair provider, the bill instead requires it to make these resources available at a price that reflects the actual costs it incurred to prepare and deliver the resources, excluding any research and development costs.

Disclosure by Dealers or Services That Are Not Authorized Repairers

Under the bill, service dealers or service and repair facilities that are not authorized repair providers for a manufacturer must, before repairing a product, give the customer written notice disclosing:

1. that the dealer or facility is not an authorized repair provider for the product and
2. whether the dealer or facility uses any (a) used replacement parts or (b) replacement parts provided by a supplier other than the product manufacturer.

Liability

Under the bill, a manufacturer or authorized repair provider is generally not liable for any damage or injury caused to any electronic or appliance product, person, or property due to a diagnosis, maintenance, modification, or repair an owner or service dealer performs. This includes any (1) indirect, incidental, special, or consequential damages; (2) loss of data, privacy, or profits; or (3) inability to use, or reduced functionality of, the product.

However, this does not apply to any design defect or manufacturing flaw that existed before, or independent of, any of the actions listed above.

Obligations

The bill specifies that its right-to-repair provisions do not require an electronic or appliance product manufacturer to do the following:

1. disclose any trade secret or license any intellectual property, including any copyright or patent, unless the disclosure or

license is needed to comply with these provisions;

2. make available any special documentation, tools, or parts that would disable or override antitheft security measures the owner sets on any product without the owner's authorization;
3. sell any part if the manufacturer no longer (a) provides the part or (b) makes the part available to authorized repair providers; or
4. allow distribution of the source code for an electronic or appliance product.

Under existing law and the bill, a "trade secret" is information, including a formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, process, drawing, cost data, or customer list that (1) derives actual or potential independent economic value from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other individuals who can get economic value from its disclosure or use and (2) is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy (CGS § 35-51).

The bill also does not require a covered manufacturer that is also an authorized repair provider to make any documentation or tools available that:

1. it exclusively uses to perform free diagnostic services for customers remotely (e.g., using the Internet, email, telephone, or a chat function), unless the manufacturer also makes them available to any unaffiliated person, or
2. are exclusively used by machines that simultaneously repair several electronic or appliance products, as long as the manufacturer makes available alternative documentation and tools that are sufficient to diagnose, maintain, or repair the product.

The right-to-repair provisions also do not apply to a manufacturer if it gives its customers a free replacement product that is readily available

and equivalent to, or better than, the replaced product. It also does not apply to any dealer, distributor, importer, or manufacturer of any equipment designed and manufactured exclusively for off-road or non-road use, including any:

1. all-terrain sports, marine, racing, or recreational vehicle;
2. construction or compact construction equipment;
3. electric vehicle charging infrastructure equipment;
4. farm or utility tractor;
5. farm implement or farm machinery;
6. forestry, industrial, mining, outdoor power, garden, turf, or yard equipment;
7. fuel cell, generator set, or portable generator;
8. integrated, stand-alone, mobile, or stationary internal combustion engine;
9. power tool; or
10. road building or utility equipment.

Penalty

The bill deems a right-to-repair violation a CUTPA violation enforceable solely by the attorney general, but specifies CUTPA's provisions for a private right of action, class actions, equitable relief, and jury trials do not apply to these violations (see BACKGROUND).

§ 4 — MUNICIPAL INTERNET WEBSITES

The bill requires all municipalities, by July 1, 2027, to maintain a .gov Internet domain and register it with the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. Municipalities (i.e. cities and towns) must redirect any other domains they use to the .gov domain or stop using them. The bill's requirements

apply regardless of any municipal charter, special act, or home rule ordinance requiring otherwise.

§§ 5 & 6 — PRICE GOUGING

Current law generally prohibits any person, firm, or corporation from increasing the price of any retail item sold in a location subject to certain emergency declarations while the declaration is in effect.

This bill expands this price gouging prohibition in several ways, including by applying the prohibition to an item's entire chain of distribution rather than just at retail and adding a new precipitating event when the prohibition applies.

It does so by allowing the attorney general to issue an abnormal economic disruption notice. He may do so when certain events cause a significant disruption involving consumer necessities (e.g., food or prescription drugs) purchased by state agencies for the public. To issue this notice, among other requirements, he must consult certain state agencies and post a notice with specified information such as the anticipated date the period will end. The bill also allows a joint legislative committee to disapprove of the notice by a bipartisan majority vote.

Unconscionably Excessive Price

Under the bill, price gouging is selling, renting, or leasing an item, or offering to do so, at an "unconscionably excessive price." This is an increased price during a precipitating event (see below) that is (1) grossly disproportionate to the price of the item, either immediately before the precipitating event or while the event was reasonably anticipated, and (2) not due to additional costs incurred in leasing, renting, or selling the item during the event.

Precipitating Events

Under existing law, price gouging is prohibited during the following:

1. a civil preparedness emergency, which the governor may declare in the event or imminence of an emergency, serious disaster or

-
- enemy attack, sabotage, or other hostile action within the state or a neighboring state (CGS § 28-1);
2. a transportation emergency, which the governor may declare when a substantial disruption in the operation of a major transportation facility or service occurs, endangering the public health, safety, or welfare (CGS § 3-6b); and
 3. major disaster or emergency declarations issued by the U.S. president.

The bill categorizes these as “precipitating events” and adds another. The new event is when the attorney general issues an abnormal economic disruption notice.

Abnormal Economic Disruption

Under the bill, if the attorney general determines that an abnormal economic disruption exists or is substantially likely to be imminent, then he may issue a notice for the disruption.

An “abnormal economic disruption” is a significant disruption in the production, supply, distribution, wholesale, sale, or availability of a consumer necessity that (1) is caused by a natural or man-made disaster or emergency, regardless of the location of the disaster or emergency, and (2) causes ordinary competitive market forces to stop functioning normally.

A “consumer necessity” is an item purchased by or on behalf of a state agency to ensure the public health or safety of Connecticut residents. This includes food, diapers, baby formula, pharmaceutical products, and prescription drugs, but does not include any item that is subject to a continuous maximum price requirement under any applicable federal or state law or regulation.

Attorney General Determination

In making the determination, the bill requires the attorney general to (1) make a reasonable investigation, (2) consult with the consumer

protection and economic and community development commissioners, and (3) consider whether issuing the notice will disrupt the supply of consumer necessities.

Notice. Under the bill, the notice must specify the:

1. date the attorney general issued it;
2. anticipated end date of the abnormal economic disruption period;
3. conditions that have caused, or are substantially likely to have caused, the disruption;
4. consumer necessity, consumer necessities, or categories of them affected by the disruption and subject to the price gouging prohibition; and
5. levels of trade or commerce affected by the disruption and subject to the price gouging prohibition, including production, supply, distribution, wholesale, sale, or availability.

The bill also requires the attorney general to (1) post the notice on his office's website home page and (2) file it with the (a) Secretary of the State (SOTS), in a SOTS-prescribed form and manner, and (b) joint legislative committee (see *Disapproval*).

Unless the notice is disapproved or the attorney general modifies it, the notice expires 60 days after the attorney general issues it or on an earlier date he specifies, whichever occurs first.

Modifications. The bill allows the attorney general to modify a notice at any time. It also allows him to extend the notice for additional 60-day periods. To do so, the attorney general must issue a notice that includes the information the bill requires for a notice and the reasons for the modification or extension. The bill also requires him to post and file the modification or extension the same way as a notice.

Disapproval. The bill allows a joint legislative committee consisting

of the Senate president pro tempore, House speaker, and House and Senate majority and minority leaders to disapprove a notice, extension, or modification, by a majority vote, with at least one minority leader voting for disapproval. The notice of the disapproval must be filed with SOTS, in a SOTS-prescribed form and manner, within 72 hours after the committee receives notice from the attorney general. The disapproval is effective upon this filing.

Applicability to Additional Transactions

Additionally, the bill expands current law's price gouging prohibition in the following ways:

1. adds distributors, manufacturers, suppliers, and wholesalers (or anyone else) to the actors, rather than just retailers (collectively, "vendors") to which the prohibition applies;
2. correspondingly expands the prohibition to an item's entire chain of distribution, rather than just at retail; and
3. adds rental and leasing, or offers to rent or lease, to the transactions to which the prohibition applies.

Price Fluctuations

The bill removes the exception in current law that specifies that an item's retail price fluctuation during the normal course of business does not violate the price gouging law.

Enforcement

By law, a violation of the price gouging prohibition is considered a CUTPA violation. The bill gives the attorney general exclusive authority to enforce this on the state's behalf. It also gives him authority to, as outlined in CUTPA, (1) order an investigation or examination or (2) take other enforcement action as necessary.

The bill also removes the separate \$99 fine for violators and makes a conforming change (§ 6).

BACKGROUND

CUTPA

By law, CUTPA prohibits businesses from engaging in unfair and deceptive acts or practices. It allows the consumer protection commissioner, under specified procedures, to issue regulations defining an unfair trade practice, investigate complaints, issue cease and desist orders, order restitution in cases involving less than \$10,000, impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000, enter into consent agreements, ask the attorney general to seek injunctive relief, and accept voluntary statements of compliance. It also allows individuals to sue. Courts may issue restraining orders; award actual and punitive damages, costs, and reasonable attorney's fees; and impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000 for willful violations and up to \$25,000 for a restraining order violation.

Related Bills

SB 1248 (File 330), favorably reported by the General Law Committee, has the same total price disclosure provision.

SB 1189 (File 28), favorably reported by the Planning and Development Committee, has the same municipal website provision.

sHB 6856 (File 347), favorably reported by the General Law Committee, has the same price gouging provisions.

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 7 (03/21/2025)